

I Claim:

1. A hydroponic growing unit having a base, the outer periphery of the base defined by an outer, vertical base wall, the base shaped to hold liquid; a vertical plant support wall forming a generally annular enclosure, the support wall mounted on the base wall to extend above the base and to enclose space above the base; and a least one opening in the support wall providing access to the enclosed space and to the inner surface of the support wall, the opening normally closed by at least one wall panel forming part of the support wall.
2. A hydroponic growing unit wherein the outer periphery of the base is generally circular.
3. A unit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the base is in the shape of an annular trough, the trough having inner and outer vertical side walls and a bottom wall joining the side walls with the outer side wall of the trough forming the base wall.
4. A unit as claimed in claim 3 wherein the trough has a well formed therein for collecting the liquid in the trough, the well sized to receive a pump for pumping liquid from the well.
5. A unit as claimed in claim 3 including a light support extending diametrically across the inner side wall of the trough.
6. A unit as claimed in claim 5 including a tubular light means extending up from the middle of the light support, the light means located in the center of the support wall.
7. A unit as claimed in claim 6 wherein the light means comprises a transparent tube having a light source at each end, and light source support means at each end, the light source support means

being open to pass air through the light means.

8. A unit as claimed in claim 7 including a ventilating fan at the bottom of the tube for drawing air into the tube to heat it and to cool the light sources, the air emerging from the top of the tube into the enclosure to provide heat to the plants growing in the enclosure.

9. A unit as claimed in claim 7 including a top light support mounted on the top of the support wall and supporting the top end of the tube centrally within the support wall.

10. A unit as claimed in claim 1 including light means extending up from the middle of the base, the light means located in the center of the support wall.

11. A unit as claimed in claim 3 including light means extending up from the middle of the base, the light means located in the center of the support wall.

12. A unit as claimed in claim 11 wherein the light means comprises a transparent tube having a light source at each end, and light source support means at each end, the light source support means being open to pass air through it.

13. A unit as claimed in claim 12 including a ventilating fan at the bottom of the tube for drawing air into the tube to heat it and to cool the cool the light sources, the air emerging from the top of the tube into the enclosure to provide heat to the plants growing in the enclosure.

14. A unit as claimed in claim 12 including a top light support mounted on the top of the support wall and supporting the top end

of the tube centrally within the support wall.

15. A unit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the support wall, including the wall panel, has plant growing block support means arranged about the inner surface of the support wall, the support means in a circle equally spaced apart and located at the top of the support wall.

16. A unit as claimed in claim 15 including a watering inlet associated with each support means, the watering inlets supported by the top of the support wall and connected via tubing and a pump to the liquid in the base.

17. A unit as claimed in claim 3 wherein the support wall, including the wall panel, has plant growing block support means arranged about the inner surface of the support wall, the support means in a circle equally spaced apart and located at the top of the support wall.

18. A unit as claimed in claim 17 including a watering inlet associated with each support means, each watering inlet supported by the top of the support wall and connected via tubing, and a pump in the well, to the liquid in the base.

19. A unit as claimed in claim 15 including a growing block suspended from each block support means, the block comprising plant growing material encased in a cover, the block extending over the height of the support wall and having an inner surface facing inwardly toward the center of the support wall, the cover on the inner surface having openings providing access to the growing material within the cover, the openings permitting plants to be planted in the growing material.

20. A unit as claimed in claim 17 including a growing block suspended from each block support means, the block comprising plant growing material encased in a cover, the block extending over the height of the support wall and having an inner surface facing inwardly toward the center of the support wall, the cover on the inner surface having openings providing access to the growing material within the cover, the openings permitting plants to be planted in the growing material.

21. A unit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the support wall has two diametrically opposed openings therein, each opening closed by two end wall panels, each end wall panel hinged to the support wall, the end wall panels forming part of the support wall when closed.

22. A unit as claimed in claim 3 wherein the support wall has two diametrically opposed openings therein, each opening closed by two end wall panels, each end wall panel hinged to the support wall, the end wall panels forming part of the support wall when closed.